

114



**Communications  
Workers of America**

**The Connecticut Union  
of  
Telephone Workers, Inc.**



**Local 1298**  
AFL-CIO

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Testimony

William F. Henderson, III  
Communications Workers of America, Local 1298

April 15, 2015

RE: Raised Bill No.: 7055      *An Act Concerning Connecticut First*

Good Morning.

My testimony is in opposition to the above-mentioned bill, as I believe the provisions enable the state to be in direct competition with private enterprise, i.e.: Frontier Communications. Frontier Communications is located in CT, is a taxpayer in CT, and employs 100% CT Union employees – employees whom we, CWA Local 1298, represent.

The special taxing provision does not make much sense to me. For example, Frontier Communication is one of the largest property owners in New Haven, therefore, one of the largest taxpayer, in affect their taxes would be used to build a municipal broadband system which could take away some of their customers.

I have looked at the CTgig project proposal which was handed out on April 1, 2015 which provides many pictures, not much substance or data. It is my belief that this project is an extremely costly venture that the state should not be involved. We have seen this scenario fail in Norwich, when they invested millions of taxpayer money and it turned out to be a catastrophic failure.

The telephone industry is different than most business. In most cases, the more quantity the less cost, not the case in the telephone industry where population density is the most important cost factor.

My opinion is that business should take care of business and the municipalities should take care of government. They should be separate and we can always anticipate problems when those lines are blurred.

William F. Henderson III  
President, CWA Local 1298